

8 March 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant (Exchanges), OO/C

THROUGH: Chief, Intelligence Information Staff, OAI

ATTENTION: [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

SUBJECT: Proposed Exchange Between U.S. Weather Bureau  
and U.S.S.R. Hydrometeorological Service

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1. The Weather Bureau proposal appears to be quite convincing. Possibly one of the strongest U.S. gains would be the insight gained by [REDACTED] into the magnitude and scope of Soviet effort in the processing of weather data, and the basis for the integration in the Hydrometeorological Service of much research in other fields of the earth sciences (hydrology, oceanography, geomagnetism) which in the U.S. are scattered through many different agencies.

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2. [REDACTED] has himself acquired a large number of Soviet acquaintances as a result of his wintering over at Mirny in 1956-57. He was well received, and possesses an excellent combination of language and technical competence that would contribute materially to the profitability of the exchange if he were included in the U.S. delegation.

3. We are concerned about the comparatively far greater range of contacts contemplated for the Soviets in the U.S. We are in no position to weigh the detailed pros and cons of the overall plan, and the following remarks are directed only at those proposed visits about which we have specific cautionary suggestions:

a. Visit to Wallops Island for actual launching of a wind rocket

The one thing that [REDACTED] were prevented from witnessing in Antarctica was the launching of Soviet 100-km. meteorological rockets in December 1957. Unless the proposed observation is on a strict quid pro quo basis we would advise against the visit.

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b. Oceanographic institutes

While it is recognized that gravimetry as such is somewhat removed from meteorology, it does have definite relevancy to the exchange in two respects: (1) it has an

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established role in Soviet oceanographic work (e.g. Vityaz cruises in the Sea of Okhotsk and the Northern Pacific, on the Lomonosov, and the Ob (Antarctic)); (2) it is involved in the study of the upper atmosphere where gravity must be taken into account as a factor affecting the dynamics of air masses. It must be emphasized that the Soviets are extremely sensitive and secretive on gravimetric survey work, or data therefrom. Hence, any visits to US oceanographic institutes must again be on a quid pro quo basis. Additionally, the US proposal should explicitly seek to include gravimetric matters in the itinerary and contacts of the U.S. delegations. The objective here would be to learn about the gravity field values used in Soviet upper atmosphere research.

c. U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey

Here must be noted the Soviet refusal to release certain geomagnetic data from the Soviet coverage of the USSR. Additionally, it must be remembered that the US&GS conducts gravity surveys as well. Care should be taken to secure a strict quid pro quo in both fields prior to the visit. We would recommend particularly a comparable visit in the USSR, such as to GUK which has responsibility for field surveys there.

4. The preliminary US planning list completely omits any Arctic installations. We would urge a strong effort to include a visit to Alaska in exchange for a visit to a good Soviet Arctic station. A visit to an Arctic weather station would be especially valuable. For example, the Dixon Radio-Meteorological Center on Dixon Island (73°30'N-80°24'E) is the regional forecasting center in the western Soviet Arctic which receives weather data from more than 40 polar stations, prepares weather maps for the area, and supplies forecasts to ships and aircraft in the Barents and Kara Seas. Additionally, the planning might even include an ice-floe drift station exchange, which was contemplated but never developed during the IGY.

5. The following additional organizations are suggested for possible visits by the US delegation:

Moscow

Northern Sea Route Administration, Department of Hydrography

Moscow State University

Chair of Climatology, Geomorphology, and Geography of the  
Northern Polar Regions

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Scientific Research Institute of Aeroclimatology

Academy of Sciences, USSR  
Oceanographic Commission  
Marine Hydrophysical Institute

Leningrad

Arctic and Antarctic Scientific Research Institute  
Department of Meteorology and Weather Forecasting;  
A.A. Girs, head (1956)  
Climatology Section; I.M. Dolgin, head (1956)  
Department of Oceanography, Ice Forecasting, and River  
Mouths; A.F. Laktionov, head (1956)  
Department of Hydrology (1956)

Leningrad Arctic School; specializing in oceanography and  
other topics (1956)

Murmansk

Northern Scientific Station of Institute of Atmospheric  
Physics

Branch of Administration of Hydrometeorological Service

Arkhangel'sk

Branch of Administration of Hydrometeorological Service

Yakutsk

Branch of Administration of Hydrometeorological Service

Mayadan (?)

Kolyma Branch of Administration of Hydrometeorological Service

Vladivostok

Far East Scientific Research Hydrometeorological Institute

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